



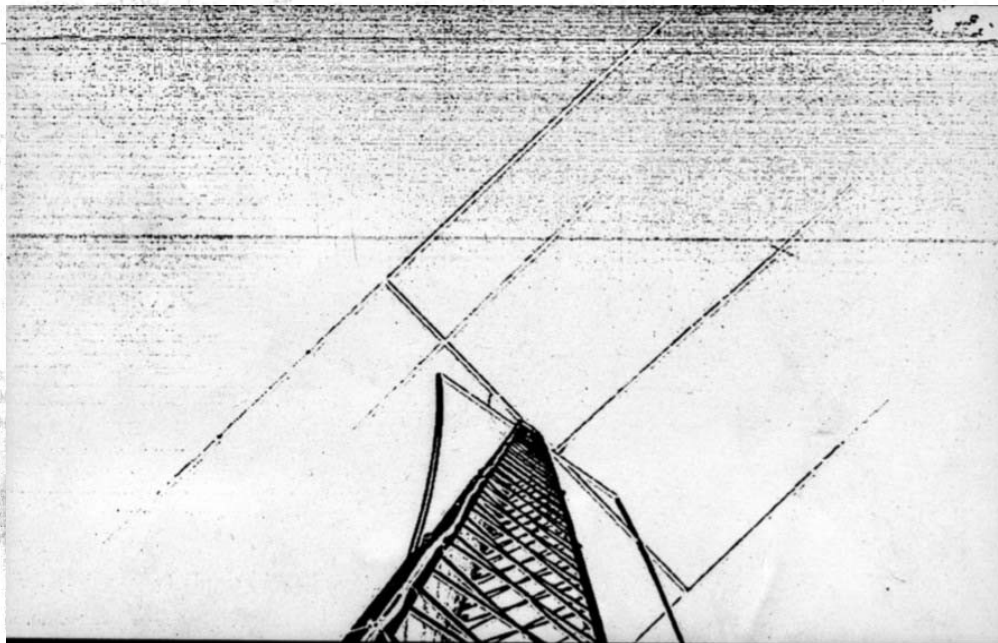
GROUNDWAVE

November 1998

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club Inc. P.O. Box 8873, Ottawa, ON. K1G 3J2

Check out our Web Page: www.oarc.net

Next Meeting... on Nov. 4, 1998



VA3KA's new tower...

NOTE: COVER PHOTO IMAGE REVERSED (BLACK TO WHITE) DURING SCANNING -VE3FFK

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Club Information

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (OARC). Is an association of Radio Amateurs devoted to the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communications in the National Capital Area; and to the advancement and achievement of club members.

Regular Meetings of the OARC Inc., are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except July and August) in the Keefer Room (2nd floor of the Old Teacher's College) of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa Carleton Head Quarters complex on Lisgar Street. Meetings commence at approximately 19:30 hours. Further details about each meeting is elsewhere in this publication.

Executive Meetings of the OARC, Inc., are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month at 19:30 hours. Contact the President to confirm the date, time and place of the next meeting.

Packet Radio Meetings will be held at 19:30 hours on the last Thursday of every second month beginning in September, at the Algonquin College - Lees Campus. This is an OARC Inc. Technical meeting open to all who have an interest in packet radio.

NET's of Interest

The Capital City FM Net meets every Monday at 20:00 hours on the club repeater VE2CRA to pass traffic and to make announcements of interest to amateurs in the National Capital Region.

The SWAP Net is a service provided and conducted by Dan Reardon, VE3GUU. This feature appears on the Capital City FM Net. To list items and make inquiries, call Dan Reardon at 836-2633, Fax: 836-5635.

The POT-HOLE NET is a SSB/HF net sponsored by the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club and is conducted every Sunday at 10:00 hours on 3.760 Mhz. All amateurs are welcome to check in. The SWAP Net is a regular feature of this net.

The POT-LID CW NET is an informal slow-speed CW net sponsored and conducted by Ed Morgan, VE3GX, and meets every Sunday, except during July and August, at 11:00 hours on 3.620 Mhz, to promote interest in CW and CW procedures.

The QCWA Chapter 70 NET every Thursday evening at 2000 hrs local time. Repeater VE3TEL is used, courtesy of the Pioneer Amateur Radio Club. The frequency is 147.03 out, 146.43 Mhz in. The callsign used is VE3QCW. Visiting Hams are invited to check into this Net. You do not have to be a QCWA member to check into this Net.

Club Repeaters

Voice	(VHF)	146.94/146.34 - 100 Hz tone
	(UHF)	443.300/448.300

Packet	147.07(sx) For QSO and Packet BBS.
Packet 56 kbps	220.55/433.55
East of Ottawa	145.69(sx)
Ottawa Centre	145.07(sx)
Hull	145.05(sx)
West of Ottawa	145.03(sx)
South of Ottawa	144.91(sx)
Nepean	145.59(sx)
West Carleton	144.97(sx)

For further information, please contact the Repeater Chair.

OARC Inc. Memberships

- **Individual Membership** is available for \$20.00
- **Family Membership** is available for \$25.00
- **New Hams** just licensed may qualify for free membership, contact the membership Chair.
- **Junior Memberships** - To encourage young people to join the club and to participate in amateur radio, the club is opening a junior class of membership. Dues will be at 50% discount but the junior member must pick up his/her copy of the Groundwave (preferably at the meeting).

September Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the OARC General Meeting - October 7, 1998

The meeting was called to order by the President, Ed (VA3MPY), at 7:35 p.m.

We had several guests including Linda (VA3LJB) and Cindy (VA2CYN). Both were students at Ed's recent Basic Class. Good luck and we hope you'll be out at future meetings.

Ed had a correction to an announcement he made last month. The special 125th Anniversary Net will commence at 7:00 pm on VE3MPC on November 3rd, not 7:30 as earlier announced. Ed vowed on behalf of the net controllers that they will remain on the air until there have been 125 check-ins. (Note from your minute taker: While there is some perverse pleasure in seeing the net controllers staying up all night waiting for that 125th contact, given the fact that the RCMP is such a worthy organization and that Ed has students to teach the next day who have paid big bucks to actually learn something, let's let him off the hook, by getting those 125 check-ins early in the evening.)

In response to any "Haves or wants", Bill (VE3FXG) said he was looking for a source for aluminum tubing. Ever quick to help out, the membership suggested Aluminum Warehouse (must be a dangerous place during a thunder storm) and Lucon Metals. Good hunting Bill. Brian (VE3ZRK) is looking for a case for a 453/455 Oscilloscope. Doug Burrill's (VE3CDC - SK) 50 foot tower is for sale.

Ken (VA3KA) made a number of announcements on behalf of the West Carleton Club (WCC). Clearly a very busy club, the WCC will be buying additional GPS 20 GPS engines in the near future. They will be about \$70 ea. and anyone interested can contact Ken at va3ka@rac.ca. Also the WCC will be buying en-masse GPS antennas in the near future. As additional information becomes available, Ken will keep the OARC membership informed. On a final note, Ken mentioned that the WCC is planning a printed circuit board project - namely the construction of 80 metre pixie (200 milliwatt) transceivers. Again, once there is more information, Ken will let us know.

Joining the chorus of those with announcements, our Vice President, Rick (VE3IHI) added a few notes of his own when he reminded the members that the Newmarket Flea Market was scheduled for the 14th of November. This Flea Market is reputed to be the biggest of the year in Southern Ontario. Also, the OVMRC was inviting all OARC members to come out to the next meeting (October 15th) to see Corel demonstrate its software (and maybe even win one of the many prizes that they usually bring with them.)

Mike (VE3FFK) took the floor with a number of announcements of his own, including that there will be a bunny hunt on the October 17th weekend; there will be a EMRG exercise on November 7; and the next EMRG meeting will be on January 23, 1999.

Brian brought in some catalogues for members' reading and project-planning pleasure.

Paul (VE3ICV) indicated that his neighbour was complaining about TVI and that there were too many radio waves about which were bad for his health. Ever quick with the advice, the membership pointed Paul to the FCC Web site (see <http://www.fcc.gov/cib/Publications/tvibook.html>), which has information on TVI. Fred (VE3IO) related a story where he was involved in testing of whether RF could ignite blasting caps. (Note from your minute taker: It can, so keep the dynamite out of the shack, or you'll have some major explaining to do).

With those wise words, Clare (VE3NPC) and Ken demonstrated some cool 2.4Ghz gear. These guys are really ready for Phase 3D. You can check out the supplier's web page for down converters, etc. at <http://www.nitehawk.com/sctv-skycable/>. Thanks Clare and Ken, it was really interesting.

Ed resumed the chair and turned to a rather important subject, the generous and anonymous donation made to the OARC and left on deposit with Bytown Marine. The Club has bought a weather station, with some of the money, to be run on APRS and to be installed at the CFRA AM site. Ed also referred to the letter found in the September edition of the Groundwave where Mike proposed that some of the money be spent on micro-fiche back copies of various amateur radio magazines. Since the article has been published, Mike has contacted the Ottawa Library, which turned down this rather generous proposal. Mike will pursue the idea with the Nepean and Algonquin College Libraries. Ed mentioned that the Club is prepared to spend up to \$5,000 in the next couple of years to facilitate club interest and innovation. Looks like we will have exciting times ahead.

Ed also reminded members that the deadline for the Joe Norton Award is fast approaching. Ed turned to the subject of the Flea Market, pointing out the financial statement in the September Groundwave. There was a round of applause for Jim (VE3XJ) in appreciation of his efforts. Also thanks were extended to Cindy and Francine for their help in the concession area. For next year, a larger building will be sought on the Carp Fair Grounds site. Building on his success, Jim will continue his responsibilities for the Flea Market, but is seeking help as it grows in size and popularity. Bill (or more particularly

Radio Amateurs of Canada

All News below is received from Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) bulletin service. Readers may subscribe to this service, visit the RAC website at www.rac.ca for more information.

From: Larry Thivierge, VE3GT,
Date: October 11, 1998
Subject: 1998 Field Day results

The results of the 1998 Field Day will appear in the December 1998 issue of QST. Field Day results typically have appeared in the November issue, which, this year, carries instead the updated and corrected results of the 1997 ARRL 10-Meter Contest. This November's issue does include several photographs from this year's Field Day event, submitted by numerous participants.

Larry Thivierge, VE3GT,
RAC Section Manager, Ontario

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Minutes - cont.

his XYL) likes the fact that the Flea Market is run in conjunction with the Carp Farmer's market.

Liz (VA3ELB), our Treasurer, is still looking for an auditor of the previous year's books. Anne (VE3TSB) was nominated for the task and then elected unanimously.

Upon Ernie (VA3OEB) winning the evening's 50/50 draw, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 with coffee and plenty of questions for Clare and Ken.

Field Day on the Magic Band

Worldradio Features - by Ken Neubeck, WB2AMU
(reprinted from Sept, 1998 Worldradio)

The Magic Band of 6 Meters has seen growth in activity, particularly during the past five years, to the point where there have been more clubs taking equipment for 6-meter operation during Field Day, the premier Amateur Radio event. 1998 may well mark the year in which the turning point occurred for 6 Meters, when it became one of the premium bands for clubs to operate on during Field Day. This is because many clubs in the U.S. and Canada that remembered to take 6-meter gear with them were rewarded with two back-to-back days of Sporadic-E activity on 27-28 June that was both long and had wide coverage. Based on the logs generated from various clubs throughout North America, it was hard to imagine that there was any area that did not see some sort of skip activity during the 24-hour period! The Magic Band at many locations became the supernatural band!

Because of the terrific openings and the large number of stations present on 6 Meters during Field Day, many clubs throughout the country easily made over 100 QSOs on 6 Meters with several clubs exceeding 200 QSOs. One of the more active stations, K4TLH, out of North Florida hit the 400 QSO mark during the two-day period. It seemed like the best place to be for 6-Meter action was in the middle of the country in the 8, 9 and 0 call areas, as skip was working both east and west from there. K9BGL, out of Illinois, said on the air that he worked all 48 contiguous states during the Field Day period. Many clubs experienced double-hop Sporadic-E during Sunday morning. How about this for a band that has often been neglected in the past?

I set up and operated the 6M station for the Peconic ARC, W2AMC, out of Eastern Long Island at the Hortonís Point lighthouse in Southold and saw the best band conditions on 6 Meters ever during the Field Day period! We ran 150 Watts into a 3-element beam up 22 feet at our 80-foot-plus height above sea level, from our location on the north shore of the island overlooking the Long Island Sound. At W2AMC, we worked over 265 stations on 6 Meters (over 200 of them via Sporadic-E and the rest by line-of-sight). There were so many stations to be worked on 6 Meters that it was the number one band for our Field Day group (as it was for many other groups in the U.S.), accounting for almost a quarter of all of the contacts during the FD period. During one particular one-hour stretch of time on Sunday from 1220Z to 1320Z, we worked 65 stations. We also saw double hop Sporadic-E during Sunday morning with contacts into Colorado, Utah and Idaho. We basically had the beam pointed west during the entire time on Sunday. Another local club station on Long Island was the Radio Central Club out of Rocky Point, about 30 miles

Words-Oct 26/98

Almost Halloween, and still no snow. I might get away without a November bus pass at this rate. I have, however, given up on HF bike mobile for the duration. The exposed fingers get too cool for good (comfortable) CW this time of year. Next year, I think I will just stay on the big waves and not bother with 2m from the bike. That should take care of the antenna changeover problem.

It was time to re-arrange the shack. The HF rig was out of place after going out to play Jamboree on the Air with some Cubs. The VHF rigs were out for some other reason, and there were some weekday evenings that weren't booked up with other things. So, a path to the wall was cleared, and shelves went up. Things were moved and re-assembled, and the equipment checked out. This surprised a few people, as I appeared on 80 and 10 metres on SSB. Well it all seems to work, and I hardly lost track of anything. Now I am beginning to remember why one doesn't build a ham shack on shelves. NO ROOM. No room for books to spread out beside the rig, so you can look things up while you are talking to someone. No room for the log book, no room for the tea cup. Even if there was a place for it, the shelves, being floor mounted, are likely to shake enough to spill the contents onto the nearby rigs. Maybe once I get the rest of the clutter cleaned up, I'll move the rigs back into the cabinet they have lived in for the past five years or so. Not all changes are improvements. Lucky for me radio is mostly an outdoor sport. There is more room for things outside.

Speaking of sport, how did you contest types do in the CQ WW SSB test this last weekend? I hear VA3KA made good use of the new antenna farm out his way.

A few of us went to Montreal for a transmitter hunt they had down there. It was billed as a "Challenge Hunt", and lived up to its name. We were second. Only one other of the eight or so groups that started found both transmitters. They found them in order, while we did it the hard way, finding the distant, off frequency transmitter first before going back for the "easy" transmitter. We left them scratching their collective heads over those "backwards" VE(A)3's. It was a great time.

On the 16th, I hid a transmitter or two for our local "bunny hunt". It seems the easy transmitter was hard and the hard one was impossible, but we all had fun anyway. Dan, VE3DCL and Gaetan, VE3IET will hide the next one, date and time TBA. Come on out. Rookies have a good track record around here.

Things are going well with the planning for the Emergency Measures Radio Group exercise on the

morning of Nov 7. We were planning to ask the VE3CPC group to turn off their repeater for a short while in that time span, but since they seem to have lost an antenna somewhere, I guess that won't be necessary.

On Nov 8, the Saint Lawrence Valley Repeater Council comes to town. That should be a good chance to find out what's new on the repeater scene. Who knows, we may even find out what really happened to the VE3MPC antenna.

Hope you got the time change right.

73.. mk

VE3FFK

Canadian Hams on the Internet

By Dino, VE2DM.

(Reprinted from the Sept. 1998 Newscaster, Winnipeg ARC)

Looking for an e-mail address of a fellow ham? Why not my "Canadian Hams on Internet". This database contains over 5000 Canadian radio amateurs who have registered since 1995. Just point your browser to:
<http://www.ve2dm.cam.org/>

If you wish to register or to check out your entry, then click on the ADD/CHANGE YOUR ENTRY selection. This is the easiest and fastest way of getting your information correctly entered into the database.

In the past year, CAM Internet (<http://www.cam.org/>) of Montreal has been sponsoring the web site where CANHAMS resides (www.ve2dm.cam.org) as a public service to the Canadian amateur community. Thanks to them, I'm able to continue offering this service to the amateur radio community.

A number of hams have asked for the database file in the past. Let me state that the list is not distributed to protect the information it contains and to try to prevent emailing spamming.

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 03,
1998
1900 HRS LOCAL
The Canadian
Police College
Amateur Radio
Club



THE VE3CPC
BREAKFAST CLUB
CELEBRATES
THE 125th
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
RCMP/GRC
PLEASE JOIN US

WILL HOLD A SPECIAL
VHF/UHF NET
VE3MPC 147.150+ / 444.400+
COMMEMORATING THE 125TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
RCMP/GRC.
 All radio amateurs are
 requested to check in to this
 very special Net
 The object of the Net is to
 reach 125 checkins in the
 honor of the RCMP/GRC
 All acknowledged amateur
 callsigns will receive a
 commemorative certificate and
 pin

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 07, 1998
0900 hrs
 Louis Steak House
 1682 Cyrville Road
 Gloucester, Ontario
 We are looking for 125 people to
 attend
 Do not be disappointed - Book
 Early
 Guy - ve3wgl@RAC.ca -
 824-9490

HamFests and Flea Markets

Items below are from the X-files on the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) web site. Readers may browse www.rac.ca for more information.

York Regional Amateur Radio Club Hamfest/Fleamarket

Saturday, November 14, 1998 - 9:00 am

Markham fairgrounds near the intersection of Elginmills and Markham Road

Talk-in on VE3YRA repeater 145.350

For more info contact: leo@ils.net

OARC Fleamarket Report - Part 2

The following is a continuation of the report in last month's issue of the Groundwave.

I have been giving some thoughts as to what we can do to improve the flea market for next year. My recommendations are as follows:

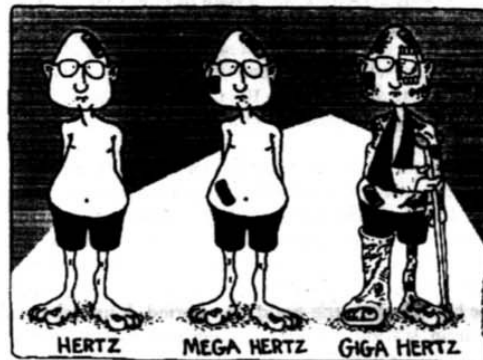
- Authorize a flea market committee. The flea market has grown to the point that I am unable to satisfactorily undertake the preparations for the flea market on my own. I am willing to continue as the overall co-ordinator, and I would suggest that we find individuals who would be willing to be responsible for concessions and food, security and set-up, media and advertisement.
- Move the flea market venue. It is my opinion that the meeting hall at the CAS is not going to be big enough if we expand. I understand that the Carp Fair will be held in a couple of weeks and that we should visit the site and determine if there is a bigger building to satisfy our needs.
- Encourage more commercial displays. For one thing, I believe that we could entice more commercial vendors if we were to entice them with a breakfast. For example, I think that we could allow the entry at 7 p.m. And in the meantime, they would have a free pancake breakfast. Indeed, this could be another source of revenue for us if we were to open this up to the public at large. In addition, I believe that we should research if there are any other business that are not amateur related, but would like to display their products. For example, computer suppliers, Radio Shack, and a badge/hat maker. I would be grateful for any advice from the executive on this point, indeed, from the membership at large.

- Establish forum activities. I think that we should consider sponsoring some forums, such as a DX forum (the new club in the NCR), latest developments in packet, RAC forum, etc. I believe that there are a number of topics that could be interesting to amateurs.
- Invest in a public address system.
- Encourage more tailgating. Although there were a few comments that perhaps the tailgating and the flea market should open at the same time, I don't really agree. If we decide to undertake to serve breakfast, staggered times could be to our advantage.
- Devote greater effort to attract amateurs from other areas. I believe that we should look to attracting more amateurs from the Outaouais region. In addition, I think we should do more to attract amateurs from Montreal, Cornwall and Kingston, Pembroke and even North Bay.

I would be more than pleased to discuss any other recommendations from the executive from the club.

73

Jim, VE3XJ



NOTICE:

The Emergency Measures Radio Group (EMRG) will be conducting an exercise on Nov. 7, 1998 starting at 08:00 local.

EMRG members are asked to listen for the call-out. All amateurs are encouraged to participate in this exercise.

The Magic of Six Metres... cont.

west of W2AMC, and they made around the same number of QSOs on 6 Meters as we did at W2AMC.

Yet, while listening to 6 Meters during some band openings days after the contest, I heard some stations say that they did not experience much activity and questioned whether they should bother taking 6 Meters to their Field Day group next year. I noticed that these stations were from locations that I had worked during the furious action on Sunday morning. All I can say is that perhaps they did not leave the 6-meter rig on or check the band periodically to take advantage of skip activity. It is almost a safe assumption to say that at some time during the 1998 Field Day period, there was Sporadic-E activity through almost all of the U.S.

I know what you're thinking: Why should you take 6 Meters when you may be in an area of little line-of-sight activity (say a place like Wyoming)? To this I say, can you afford not to? I even heard a Wyoming Field Day group briefly on the band this year and I am sure that they were glad they had 6 Meters. They were probably cleaning up with the large number of stations throughout the country that were coming through on Sporadic-E skip. The odds are always good that some Sporadic-E activity will be seen during Field Day as the months of June and July are the best for Sporadic-E for stations in the Northern Hemisphere. Even in the worst conditions, which happened during our Field Day in 1997, I was able to work 10 stations via Sporadic-E while working another 90 via line-of-sight.

For those stations in locations that fall into this situation, take the 6-meter rig and leave it parked on 50.125 during the contest while you operate other bands. If you hear some activity break through, you can take advantage of the skip conditions. If you have an HF+6 package, make a point to periodically check up and down the band during the Field Day period. Remember the 6-meter station is a VHF station and does not count as a transmitter toward your transmitter class in the scoring! There is no excuse not to monitor the band at some time during Field Day.

The Finer Points of Publishing...

Material published herein, does not necessarily represent the official OARC viewpoint. Items may be reprinted by Amateur Radio Clubs or other publications provided that proper credit is given to the author and to the OARC, Inc.

It's easy to set up a modest station on 6 Meters for Field Day. An omni-directional antenna such as a squalo or Saturn Six will work, but not always during marginal conditions. I recommend some sort of directional antenna, such as a two- or three-element Yagi, be put up as high as possible. This can be accomplished by using telescoping mast or five-foot mast sections (available at Radio Shack). Even if one only has 10 watts for 6 Meters, a decent antenna setup described here will do reasonably well. Of course, results will generally be better when higher power levels are used.

When you run higher power, it's easier to hold on to a frequency where you can call CQ for longer periods of time. This is hard to do with a 10-watt station, and using the hunt and peck method works best for lower power stations. A station using an amplifier that can put out 150 watts will find it easier to hold on to the frequency for calling CQ, particularly as you get in areas close to the 6-meter calling frequency of 50.125 MHz. The advantage of being able to stay on one frequency and call CQ is that you can run very high QSO rates when the band is hot as opposed to moving around and searching for stations, which slows down the rate. The beauty about 6 Meters is that if you set up your Field Day station correctly, there should be very little intermod interference between 6 Meters and the HF stations as is often seen between 10 Meters and other HF bands. If you can't get 10 Meters going, why not use 6 Meters to fill in the gap? What a lot of Hams don't realize is that Sporadic-E on 10 or 6 Meters is an extremely efficient propagation mode and signals can get very strong during a good opening such as the ones observed during Field Day.

The terrific openings on 6 Meters during the 1998 Field Day will whet the appetite of many of the Hams who were lucky enough to experience them. The word about this year's great event will hopefully provide incentive for groups new to the band to set up a station for next year! Remember, the 6 Meter band does not count as a transmitter toward your overall transmitter classification, so you can essentially work hundreds of stations for free! Hope to see you all on the Magic Band during next Field Day!

Next Meeting

November 4, 1998 -- See you there! Topic TBA.

If you haven't renewed...

Here's a membership form, don't delay and mail it today. If you have, give it to a friend!

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club Inc.

Box 8873
Ottawa, ON
K1G 3J2

Membership Renewal / Application

Callsign(s) _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Home Phone _____ - _____ Work Phone _____ - _____ ext _____

Email Address _____ @ _____

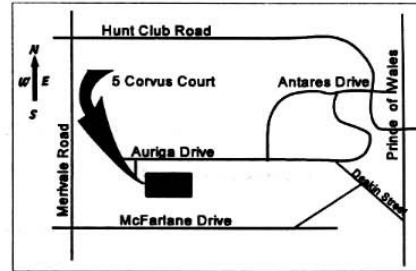
Current Qualification: Basic Advanced Grandfathered
5 wpm 12 wpm Year Licensed 19 _____

- Renewal (\$20 single, \$25 family, \$10 junior)
- Newly Licensed ham - \$FREE if licensed in current membership year
- New Single Membership - \$20 (\$15 after February)
- New Family Membership - \$25
- New Junior Membership - \$10



Bytown Marine Limited

5 Corvus Court, Nepean, ON K2E 7Z4
 Tel: (613) 723-8424
 Fax: (613) 723-0212
 e-mail: gwalker@bml.ca



Holiday Savings

ICOM		KENWOOD	
IC-706	\$ 1,478.	TH-235A 2m Handheld Transceiver "new"	\$ 239.
IC-T2A "new" 2m Handheld	220.	TM-261A 2m Transceiver w/Dual Band Receiver	335.
IC-R10 "new" Handheld Receiver All Mode .5 - 1300 MHz	695.	TS-870S HF Transceiver	2,828.
IC-W32A 2m/70cm Handheld	449.	TH-G71A Dual Band Handheld Transceiver	469.
IC-T7A 144/440 MHz Handheld Transceiver	390.	VC-H1 Interactive Visual Communicator	850.
IC-746-HF, 6m & 2m All Mode w/DSP	2,550.		
PCR-1000 .5 - 1300 MHz Scanner, Computer Controlled	795.	18" UNIDEN DIRECT TV SYSTEMS	
		UDS-100 Digital Satellite Receiver, w/dish & mounting bracket	\$ 550.
		UDS-200 Same as above, more features & RF Remote	900.
		BOOKS	
		New R.A.C. Operating Manual, w/tax	\$ 20.
		1998 CDROM Callbook	85.

YAESU

FT-100 Est.	\$ 2,100.
VX-1R World's Smallest Dual Band Handheld Transceiver	450.
FT-920 New HF Transceiver with 6m replaces FT-990	2,900.
FT-847 New HF/50/144/430 MHz All Mode Transceiver**	**2,900.

Cash - Tax Included

Offering authorized factory service
 Fall/Winter Store Hours Monday thru Friday 10:00 - 6:00 Saturdays 9:00 - 1:00
 Store will be closed December 24 from 12:00 noon until January 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Happy Holidays!!